Mountain Weather Forecast

North Grampian

Including North and West Cairngorms National Park, Monadhliath, Ben Alder, Creag Meagaidh, Loch Ericht and Loch Rannoch
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 21 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Friday 22 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023 at 17:22 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for remaining very changeable and windy, and for storm force winds on Thursday. Medium for details, falling low from later Friday onwards especially regarding the boundary of mild and cold air and snow levels on Friday and early Saturday.

Headline for Thursday 21 Dec 2023: A very stormy day with frequent showers turning increasingly to snow.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
Low Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy rain showers (night)	Heavy snow showers	Heavy snow showers	Heavy snow showers	Heavy snow showers (night)	Heavy snow
Precipitation probability							
90%	80%	60%	50%	50%	50%	50%	60%

Forecast for Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy overnight with some more persistent rain in the early hours, quite heavy for a time, this turning showery later in the night, showers turning to snow above 800m by dawn. Daylight hours will bringing occasional showers and some bright or sunny intervals. The showers quite heavy and blustery, falling as snow initially above 700-800m but as it turns colder from the north, they will turn to snow down to 500m by afternoon. Limited fresh snowfalls but where they do occur such as on the Plateau, some blowing or drifting is likely in the extremely strong winds.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10-20% in early hours, rising 60% by daylight hours.

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud at 600-800m in early hours with poor visibility in rain below the cloud. The cloud breaking and lifting to nearer 1000-1200m by daybreak, with good visibility away from showers, but near showers bases could fall to 750m with poor visibility outwith cloud as heavier snow showers pass through.

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Forecast for Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	59/75 W	71/93 W	74/97 NW	69/91 NW	62/81 NW	56/73 NW	52/68 NW	50/66 NW	48/63 NW
900	53/64 W	58/73 W	60/76 W	55/69 NW	48/63 NW	44/57 NW	40/52 NW	38/49 NW	35/47 NW
600	36/45 W	40/53 W	41/56 W	37/51 W	33/46 NW	28/40 NW	26/37 W	24/35 W	23/34 W
300	18/40 W	22/48 W	23/50 W	22/48 NW	20/42 NW	17/37 NW	15/34 W	13/30 W	13/29 W
Glen	6/37 W	7/43 W	8/44 W	8/43 NW	8/36 NW	6/33 NW	6/32 NW	5/28 NW	5/27 NW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	1/-10	1/-10	-1/-13	-3/-16	-5/-17	-6/-18	-6/-18	-6/-18	-6/-17
900	4/-5	4/-4	2/-7	0/-10	-1/-11	-2/-12	-2/-12	-2/-12	-2/-12
600	6/-0	7/0	5/-3	3/-5	1/-6	0/-7	0/-7	0/-7	0/-7
300	8/4	9/4	6/1	5/-1	4/-2	2/-3	2/-3	2/-3	2/-2
Glen	9/6	10/7	7/4	5/1	4/0	3/-0	3/-1	2/-0	3/-0
Freezing Level*	1500m	1600m	1100m	800m	600m	500m	500m	500m	500m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Storm force winds with gusts well over 100mph possible on exposed ridges and summits in morning, where any mobility will be almost impossible with a high risk of being blown off your feet. Note also the extremely low feels like temperatures.

Forecast for Friday 22 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy with occasional showers, snow falling above 500-600m, slowly rising. More persistent rain and snow will develop in the evening, turning to rain at all levels over the far south of the area, but remaining as snow in the north down to 450m, the location of the boundary of the mild and cold air likely to be uncertain, but sharp.

Maximum wind: Though not as windy as Thursday, west to northwesterly winds will remain strong, around 35 gusts 50mph. Winds perhaps becoming more variable in direction in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20% or less.

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud at 600-800m with lower patches. Poor visibility even outwith cloud at times, in heavier rain, or where there is still snow falling.

Temperature:
Glens: Plus 4 Celsius, falling Plus 2 in the north.
At 800m: Minus 3 Celsius, rising to zero in the south in the afternoon and Plus 3 in the evening, little change in the north.
Freezing level: At first, 500m, but rising 800m in the south in the afternoon, and above summits in the far south evening, but little change in the north.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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